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CASTRO RESPONSE TO US APPEAL

Few public figures have proven to be as unpredictable as Fidel Castro. We do not know whether he could take the decision alone, but would guess he would need to consult several of his associates including one or two old-line Communists. He would almost surely feel compelled to check with Moscow, especially if he had any thought of acceptance. Probably the missiles are there as part of a deal whose terms might be changed adversely for Castro if he could no longer provide MRBM bases.

He is unlikely on short notice to be able to accustom himself to the idea of help from the US for any internal struggles a favorable response might cause.

We must, of course, be prepared for a 4 hour TV appearance, revealing and denouncing our approach. He might also go to UN to charge interference in his internal affairs.

But it seems likely that he is aware that Soviet offers of support have not been made in categorical terms and that his internal position is not one of great strength. In this situation he might try to confuse the issue and stall for time, hoping for a solution to his dilemma to appear.

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Presumably the old-line Communist elements would plump for a flat rejection of the US approach. This might lead to a major flare up between the two groups, of considerable potential advantage to us.

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